



# South Central District Health

*Keeping your family & community healthy*  
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## **NEWS RELEASE – For Immediate Release**

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### **September Is National Food Safety Education Month**

TWIN FALLS, ID -- South Central District Health is sponsoring a public education program to promote food safety during National Food Safety Education Month in September. According to Melody Bowyer, Food Protection Program Manager for SCDH, the observance will reinforce food safety education and training for food service workers and educate the public on the proper ways to handle and prepare foods at home. This educational program is developed in conjunction with a national program sponsored by the USDA.

The theme for this 13<sup>th</sup> year observance of food safety is Viruses: “They’re in Your Hands.” One of the key elements of the promotion is to teach people the proper way to wash their hands to avoid cross contamination. Generally a good scrubbing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds will wash away many viruses and bacteria. The informational program will heighten awareness of food safety in food establishments as well as the home.

**MORE – MORE – MORE**

## **Food Safety Education Month – Cont.**

Each year, SCDH inspects over 1,100 food establishments in south central Idaho. Included are food outlets ranging from fast food restaurants to schools and institutional facilities, from fine dining establishments to convenience stores. These inspections help ensure public health and prevent the spread of food borne illness. During inspections, inspectors concentrate on risk factors affecting food borne illness and teach food handlers how to use sound practices and proper sanitary procedures when working with food.

Last October SCDH spearheaded the formation of the [South Central Idaho Food Safety Awareness Coalition](#) with members from the food industry, other governmental agencies, and public institutions. The Coalition has been working together since last October to ACE (Advocate, Collaborate, and Educate) food establishments as well as the public about food safety.

Special educational infomercials have been produced specifically for National Food Safety Education Month to demonstrate safe food handling at food establishments and at home. They will demonstrate the proper way to wash hands before and after handling or eating food. They will also show the proper way to thaw frozen foods and cook foods to safe temperatures to ensure adequate pathogen destruction.

For more information on National Food Safety Education Month and how you can help, contact Melody Bowyer at 208-737-5909 or email [mbowyer@phd5.idaho.gov](mailto:mbowyer@phd5.idaho.gov).

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